THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b)Yes Sir. As per the report received from the State Government of Chhattisgarh there were 16 cases of human casualties and 6971 cases of damage to the property in the State during the last two years. The total compensation paid was Rs. 15,20,000/- for loss of human lives and Rs. 97,31,118/- for damage to the property.

(c) There was a request from the State Government to include Chhattisgarh under 'Project Elephant'. However, Government of India have not found the proposal feasible as Chhattisgarh forests do not form the original habitat of elephants nor the elephant population was found viable for establishing an elephant reserve in the State.

(d) The Government of India has provided financial assistance to the State under Centrally sponsored scheme of "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries". In addition the following steps have been taken by State Government to stop the damage caused by wild elephants:

(i) Awareness creation among the villagers to minimize the loss to human being and to the property through trained personnel of the department;

(ii) Crackers provided to keep elephants away from the villages;

(iii) Erection of solar fencing in Badalkhol sanctuary of Jashpur district;

(iv) Compensation of Rs. 1 lakh for human casualty and actual damage to the crop and houses in paid after evaluation by the revenue authorities;

The State Government has submitted proposals to the tune of Rs. 43.00 crores for the year 2005-06 to 2009-10 and separately for Rs. 5.06 crores for the year 2005-06 for items that include habitat improvement, water resource development, mitigation measures for man-elephant conflict, payment of compensation, infrastructure development etc.,

Pollution on western coast

1867. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that heavy pollution in the waters of the western coast after the monsoon are killing shoals of fish;

(b) whether it is a fact that this trend may have a bearing on the fall in the netting of prawns and pomfrets in recent years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this phenomenon is aggravated by pollution from fertilizer run offs entering the western water; and

(d) if so, the steps Governments proposed to take to check the depletion in marine life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), in view of fish mortalities observed in Mumbai during October 2005, the MPCB had got studies carried out through Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mumbai Centre and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute Nagpur. The study report revealed that low prices combined with bumper landings of catfish forcing the fish traders to discard the rotten catch after removal of air bladders and slow swimmers like eels in intense upwelling, getting trapped and washed ashore in dead condition, were the reasons for fish mortalities. The other reasons for low fish catch were reported to be loss of breeding areas, reduced flushing and pollution particularly in urbanized areas like Mumbai Metropolitan region, fishing by mechanized trawlers in excess of regeneration capacity and illegal fishing in some areas during breeding period.

(c) and (d) Both Maharashtra and Goa Pollution Control Board have reported negligible pollution from fertilizer run offs.

To curb pollution from industrial sources, besides action taken as per provisions of water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 by the MPCB, well designed marine outfalls, Common Effluents Treatment Plants(CETPs) and common Hazardous Wastes Treatment Storage and Disposal Facilities(CHWTSDF), are some of the infrastructures projects implemented particularly in Konkan (Coastal areas) of the Maharashtra State.

Air pollution in Delhi

1868. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board and the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata has found disturbing